

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 22870 01 OF 02 201555Z  
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00  
FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01  
TRSE-00 ICA-20 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 ISO-00  
AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 /168 W  
-----118792 201602Z /41

R 201539Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5061  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 22870

USMTN

PASS TREASURY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIN, FR  
SUBJECT: FRENCH COMMENTARY ON THE BONN SUMMIT

SUMMARY: FRENCH NEWSPAPER REACTION TO THE  
BONN SUMMIT HAS BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE,  
EXCEPT FOR THE COMMUNISTS. PRESS COMMENTARY  
HAS CENTERED PRIMARILY ON THE FACT THAT  
REALISTIC, ALTHOUGH MODEST, GOALS HAVE BEEN  
SPECIFIED AND THAT THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES  
WILL MAKE AN UNITED EFFORT TO ACHIEVE THEM.  
REACTION TO THE US COMMITMENT TO REDUCE OIL  
IMPORTS MIXES APPROVAL WITH SKEPTICISM.  
HOWEVER, COMMENTARY HAS BEEN FAIRLY NEGATIVE  
ON TRADE BECAUSE THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE PICKED  
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PAGE 02 PARIS 22870 01 OF 02 201555Z

UP THE GOVERNMENT'S DISSATISFACTION WITH THE  
RECENT GENEVA "FRAMEWORK OF UNDERSTANDING" WHICH,  
IT FEARS, WILL DAMAGE FRENCH AGRICULTURAL  
EXPORTS. END SUMMARY

FOLLOWING ARE SPECIFIC COMMENTS BY THE FRENCH  
PRESS ON THE RESULTS OF THE SUMMIT AND THE US

COMMITMENT TO REDUCE OIL IMPORTS.

LE FIGARO: "THE SUCCESS OF THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT. . . WAS OBTAINED THANKS TO CONCESSIONS BY THREE COUNTRIES: THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN AND WEST GERMANY. . .THE MOST POSITIVE ASPECT OF THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE IS ITS PRECISION AND ITS FIGURES."

LES ECHOES: "AS COULD BE EXPECTED, THE RESULT OF THIS SUMMIT APPEARS MODEST WHEN READING THE COMMUNIQUE. THE MOST ORIGINAL ELEMENT -- CONCERTED ECONOMIC ACTION -- IS NOT NEW SINCE IT FOLLOWS THE FORMULA RECOMMENDED BY THE OECD IN JUNE . . .THE LEAST SATISFACTORY ASPECT IS THE ATTITUDE OF PRESIDENT CARTER CONCERNING AMERICAN OIL IMPORTS."

AUORE: "THE CONFEREES VISIBLY HAVE INITIATED A PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATION TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE RATHER THAN CREATE A SET OF AUTHORITARIAN MEASURES TO STIMULATE ACTIVITY. . .THIS MIGHT BE THE 'NEW CLIMATE' OF CONFIDENCE FOR WHICH MR. GISCARD D'ESTAING IS HOPING FOR. . .IT WILL BACK UP THE POSITION OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT AGAINST THE CONGRESS."

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PAGE 03 PARIS 22870 01 OF 02 201555Z

LE MONDE: "THE SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL: THEY SEE IN THE COORDINATED STRATEGY THAT THEY HAVE ADOPTED A MORE HOPEFUL FUTURE AND A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN UNEMPLOYMENT. . .COMMITMENTS MADE TO THEIR WESTERN PARTNERS WILL BECOME, MORE THAN IN THE PAST, ONE OF THE ELEMENTS INFLUENCING GOVERNMENTS WHEN MAKING DECISIONS. . . COORDINATION AMONG THE MAJOR NON-COMMUNIST LEADERS IS GRADUALLY BECOMING MORE OF AN INSTITUTION. . .THIS TREND IS A GOOD THING PROVIDED. . .IT DOES NOT DOWNGRADE THE GOAL OF BUILDING THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. IN THIS RESPECT, IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S AMERICA IS LESS DISTURBING THAN THE DOMINEERING COUNTRY LED BY NIXON AND KISSINGER."

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PAGE 01 PARIS 22870 02 OF 02 201556Z

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 22870

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LA LETTRE DE LA NATION (RPR NEWSLETTER): "THE STRIKING THING SO FAR IS THE DISCREPANCY . . . BETWEEN THE PESSIMISM WIDELY DISPLAYED BEFORE THE MEETING AND THE POLITE SATISFACTION SHOWN SINCE SUNDAY. . . WHEN EXAMINED MORE CAREFULLY, IT APPEARS THAT THE COMMITMENTS WERE EITHER ALREADY MADE AS IN THE CASE OF THE INCREASED DEFICIT OF THE FRENCH BUDGET -- OR DEPENDENT ON PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION -- AS IN GERMANY -- OR ARE ALREADY DEADLOCKED -- AS IN THE CASE OF THE REDUCTION OF AMERICAN OIL IMPORTS."

LE MATIN: (SOCIALIST-LEANING): "THE PREVAILING IMPRESSION IS THAT OF A FIRMER DETERMINATION OF THE HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT OF THE SEVEN TO USE CONCRETE MEANS TO STIMULATE ACTIVITY . . . IT  
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PAGE 02 PARIS 22870 02 OF 02 201556Z

REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE FORCES OF THE MARKET ARE NOT AFTER ALL STRONGER THAN THE PIOUS WISHES OF THE GOVERNMENTS."

HUMANITE (COMMUNIST): "IN REALITY, AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED, NOT TO CHANGE BUT TO CONTINUE A POLICY OF AUSTERITY EVERYWHERE, A POLICY AIMED AT SWELLING THE PROFITS OF THE MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES."

ALTHOUGH FRENCH REACTION TO THE SUMMIT'S OVERALL OUTCOME HAS BEEN FAVORABLE, IT HAS FOLLOWED GISCARD'S LEAD IN CRITICIZING SUMMIT SUPPORT FOR THE PRELIMINARY GENEVA TRADE ACCORD. COMMENTING ON THE JULY L3 INTERIM TRADE ACCORD AT GENEVA, PRESIDENT GISCARD WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT ALTHOUGH THE SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRESS ACCOMPLISHED IN GENEVA, "SEVERAL IMPORTANT AND DIFFICULT QUESTIONS REMAIN UNRESOLVED." MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE DENIAU WENT FURTHER, SAYING THAT "THE SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS HAVE NOT APPROVED THE GENEVA REPORT. THE REPORT HAS NO OFFICIAL STANDING."

LES ECHOES HEADLINED ITS ARTICLE ON THE FRENCH REACTION: "THE BONN SUMMIT MASKED US-FRENCH OPPOSITION ON AGRICULTURE." IT CONTINUED: "THE AMERICANS HAVE, OF COURSE, STILL NOT GIVEN UP ATTACKING THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY."

LE MONDE DESCRIBES THE FRENCH AS REACTING AS IF "SUCH A MEASURE HAD BEEN IMPOSED ON PARIS BY A SORT OF SLEIGHT-OF-HAND CONCOCTED, MORE OR UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PARIS 22870 02 OF 02 201556Z

LESS CLANDESTINELY, BY MR. STRAUSS AND THE BRUSSELS BUREAUCRATS." IN ITS EDITORIAL LE MONDE CRITICIZES THE GOVERNMENT FOR THIS ATTITUDE SAYING: "IS A WESTERN STRATEGY AGAINST THE RECESSION SHAPING UP? . . . FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THIRTY YEARS IT IS OFFICIALLY IF CAUTIOUSLY STATED: 'UNIFORM APPLICATION OF THE GATT RULES IS VITAL, AND WE SHALL MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.' THIS SAME ATTITUDE HAS PRODUCED THE INVITATION TO THE EEC, IN GENEVA, TO DISCIPLINE ITS COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND THE REFUSAL TO CONTINUE TO ACCEPT, UNDER THE PRETEXT THAT UNIFICATION OF EUROPE IS A GOOD THING, THAT THE NINE CAN SEIZE PART OF THEIR PARTNERS TRADITIONAL MARKETS BY SUBSIDIZING EXPORTS OF THEIR AGRICULTURAL SURPLUSES. . . THE BILL TO BE PAID FOR SUCH A CONTRIBUTION TO MORE ORDERLY WORLD TRADE SHOULD BE EQUITABLY SHARED AMONG THE NINE; AND, WITHIN THE EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

ABERRATIONS HERETOFORE ACCEPTED SHOULD ALSO BE  
ELIMINATED SO THAT PRODUCERS CAN SPECIALIZE,  
AN APPROACH THAT CAN ONLY BE BENEFICIAL TO  
FRENCH FARMERS."  
HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

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